

In re Application of: Berthet et al.
Application No. 09/636,237
Response to Final Office Action of August 4, 2004

Remarks

I. Allowed claims and allowable subject matter

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-9. With regard to claims 11 and 16, which the Examiner indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter, the Applicants have redrafted these claims in independent form to address the Examiner's objections. Claims 11 and 16 are now believed to be allowable.

II. Rejected claims

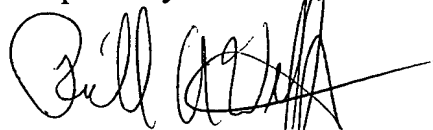
The Examiner rejected claims 10, 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitra (U.S. Patent No. 5,533,063) in view of Franz (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,835) and/or Seshadri (U.S. Patent No. 5,263,033). In response, claim 10 has been amended to include one of the limitations of allowed claim 1. Specifically, claim 10 now requires the "means for computing and iteratively exchanging a priori information" to be "arranged for differentiating between a contribution of the transmission channel and a contribution of the decoding means." Mitra, Franz, and Seshadri do not teach or suggest this limitation, either singly or in combination. Claim 10 is therefore believed to be allowable.

Claims 12-15 depend from claim 10 and are believed to be allowable for the same reason as claim 10.

III. Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 13, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION OF AUGUST 4, 2004 (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: October 13, 2004 I. Mikitiouk
Irina L. Mikitiouk

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